

near it to the south, and now presented to the reader by engraving, is a beautiful and rare specimen of early ornamental ironwork. It consists of a quantity of foliated wrought metal, in some places twisted, and in others enriched with what were perhaps intended for the heads of birds and animals. The ornament is strangely irregular and fanciful in the mode of its fabrication, and appears since its execution to have been placed upon a second ground-work of oak. It is a pity that this singular door should be allowed to remain, as it does at present, darkened and nearly hidden by a modern porch of neither taste nor interest.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE church of St. Simon, at Baptist-mill, Bristol, consecrated on Tuesday week as already noticed in THE BUILDER, is in the early decorated style of latter part of 13th century, consisting of a nave 40 feet long, and a north aisle and porch, with chancel, 30 feet deep, and a tower and broach spire 121 feet high, at east end of aisle. The exterior is of blue lias with free-stone dressings, and the interior is fitted up with low open deal benches stained and varnished, with oak stalls and railing in chancel; the roof timbers are also stained. The pulpit and reading-desk are of free-stone: sittings, 700.—300 free: cost about 2,500l.: designs by late firm of Messrs. Hicks and Gabriel, of Bristol, architects: builder, Mr. Robertson, of Stoke's-croft. The new tower of St. James's Church, Bath, has been completed, by the elevation of the ball and vane of the old church to the top of the dome of the new. At Cowbridge Church, Glamorganshire, the old windows are being restored, with new free-stone tracery, &c., partly filled up with stained glass. Mr. Haycock, of Shrewsbury, is the architect. The restorations are due to the Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral. The Rev. James Evans, of Llandoe, is also having his church restored through the munificence of the Marquis of Bute, and under the superintendence of Mr. I. S. Corbett. The parishioners of Thornbury, says the Worcester Journal, have determined to repair their fast decaying church, and the work has been committed to Mr. Niblett, of Gloucester, architect. The roof is to be thoroughly renewed, and the church repewed; the whole at an outlay of about 2,000l. A painted window, executed by Mr. George Rogers, of Worcester, has just been placed in the east window of Hallow Church. The lower compartments are filled with geometrical patterns, the groundwork of which is composed of traced foliated designs from old examples, surrounded with marginal borderings of rich colouring. A vesica, with monogram, forms the principal device of the middle light, encircled with ruby grounds. The following inscription is inserted at the base of the window:—"Hic fenestra, Henrico Josepho Stevenson, M.A., hujus Ecclesie Presbytero, quibusdam amicis dono, data.—monumentum et pignus, desiderii, ab illo hic posita est anno Domini 1847." Some restorations have recently been effected in St. Peter's Church, Derby. The pulpit has been removed from the middle of the centre aisle to an angle under the chancel arch, which a correspondent regards as an improvement. The old lath and plaster ceiling, too, has been torn off the chancel roof, and the moulded oak timbers exposed and cleaned. The new vicar, Rev. Mr. Hope, had advised with Mr. Place, of Nottingham, architect, and by his recommendation effected these improvements. The trustees of the Welney Charity, at Upwell, in Norfolk, in the spring of the past year, began to build a new church, almshouses, and school, with master's house attached. All are now nearly roofed in. The style of the church is of the thirteenth century. The design is plain. The walls are of brick faced with rare stone from Lynn: the windows and buttresses are of Causton stone, and the chancel-arch and other interior features of Caen stone. The application of the rare stone in large blocks is novel: it is said to be a durable material, upon which time confers a silvery grey tint. Mr. Andrews, of Wisbech, builder, is the contractor. A less ancient style has been adopted in the other buildings, which are of white brick with stone dressings. A movement is in progress at Wolverhampton

for the erection of a corn exchange.—The dilapidated and disgraceful state of St. Mary's Church, Oxford, for centuries used as the University church, is under the consideration of the University and the parish authorities. The tower and the chancel, in particular, are fast mouldering away. A project has been set on foot for filling the east and west windows with stained glass.—Bridgnorth Church has been restored, and chancel windows of painted glass have been inserted.—The parish church at Newark, Notts, has been somewhat improved of late by the removal of obstructions, &c. The removal too of unsightly galleries and inconvenient pews, out of keeping with the architectural character of the building, have been pointed out as very desirable.—The tender of Messrs. Harrison and Hoyle, of Chester, for the building of the new barracks at Sheffield, has been accepted by the Board of Ordnance. It is rumoured that the amount of their tender was about 19,000l. The Iris states that there were eleven tenders sent in, the lowest of which was about 17,000l., whilst the highest was about 24,000l.—only a difference of 7,000l. Several correspondents have asked us for more exact particulars.—The chalice, bones, and coins discovered on the site of St. Mary Magdalene, Doncaster, have given rise to some speculation as to the precise era and antiquity of the church; indeed, the excavations were designedly made, for the purpose of throwing some light, if possible, on this rather doubtful subject. One skeleton, or all remaining of it, was found under the high altar, with the leaden chalice, like an egg-cup, between the finger and thumb, but no trace of a coffin was at first discovered, and hence the era was regarded as so remote as that previous to coffin burial even of high dignitaries, such as this appears to have been, or about the earlier Anglo-Saxon times. But since the original discovery, some vestiges of a screw nail, supposed to have belonged to the coffin, have been found. Even so, however, the era must have been of ancient date, since the coffin has been entirely consumed. The coins are Roman and German. Amongst the debris is a piece of marble, supposed to have contained holy water; a piece of undoubted Roman tile, several fragments of vessels or urns, a very singular key, and a seal with three arrows upon it. On the whole, the relics are thought to furnish, when combined, "undoubted evidence of the antiquity of the place in which they were discovered. They are unquestionably the deposit of a long series of ages, and lead to the conclusion that St. Mary Magdalene's Church at Doncaster may have been preceded by a rude Saxon structure, and that again preceded by a heathen temple of the Romans, in the same way that St. Paul's Cathedral was built on the site of the Temple of Diana."—The rooms of the Liverpool Academy, in which the exhibition of the works of living artists has just been held, are now to be thrown open for exhibition of the same paintings to the poorer classes for a fortnight—the terms of admission being, for adults twopenny, children one penny; catalogues also provided at a penny each. "The interest which is taken in the welfare of the working classes," observes the Albion, "the desire which is evinced to provide for their sources of rational and elevating amusement and recreation—is not the least pleasing characteristic of the present day; and we hope the labouring people of Liverpool and the neighbourhood will show how they appreciate such opportunities, by crowding in thousands to the exhibition rooms," as they appear to have done on two previous occasions.

ORNAMENTAL ROOFING TILES.—During the past week two vessels, the *Celerity* and *Jouye Juhanna*, have arrived from Belgium freighted with ornamental roofing tiles. They are of a blue or slate colour, and cost, as we understand, about the same as slating. One pattern in form resembles a leaf, and would, when placed upon a roof, have a picturesque effect. The use of these tiles appears to be extending. We recently noticed that they were used for the church at Staplefield, Sussex. St. Paul's Church, Hull (Mr. Dykes, architect) has also been roofed with them, as well as the boat-house on the Serpentine, in Hyde-park.

#### PUBLIC AND CHARTERED CEMETERIES.

SIR,—In the last number of THE BUILDER, under the head of "What should a Sanitary Bill contain?" it is proposed that the system of joint stock companies for cemeteries be at once put an end to, and the interests of the shareholders in the existing cemeteries, purchased. It also appears that the Association of the parochial clergy that waited, by deputation, on Lord Morpeth, entertain the same intention. This will readily be responded to by those who perceive the deception of these decoys; who know that in a few years, strips of their distinctive charms, they will be in every respect like our old churchyards,—stone against stone, with not a foot of unajudged space for the contemplative visitor to move between the tombs without trampling on forbidden ground; who foresee the saw and the chopper devastating the beautiful plantations that enticed them to lay the remains of friends within the shadow of a majestic cypress, or under the pensile willow, until not a vestige of their present attractions remain. It will also be as interesting to those who, in the hour of bereavement and generous grief, paid all they could afford to pay for a private grave for the interment of relatives in so beautiful a garden, and afterwards discover that after-fee imposed on them an unceasing impost. In fact, the larger the profits of the company the sooner is the charm,—the poetry of sentiment—driven from its precincts. For the information of your correspondent and the Parochial Clergy Association, I submit the following summary of the charges and value of ground in these cemeteries: from it they may decide whether it will be advisable to think of purchasing those places at an enormous outlay, or whether a tithe of the amount would not be more beneficially expended on now open fields, to be consecrated in fair rivalry of the existing cemeteries.

The nominal first price of a common private grave in our cemeteries is only 3l. 3s., but fees of interment, &c., carry the usual cemetery expenses, for opening the ground, use of chapel, salaried chaplain, registrar (usually the company's secretary), &c. &c., to about six guineas. If you require a larger space than six feet and a half by two and a half, you are charged 8s. 6d. a foot; but the expenses do not stop at that; the allowance of extra ground at 8s. 6d. a foot is often refused on various pretexts, the real cause being the estimated ultimate value of successive fees, which the companies or their officials calculate to raise the value of ground finally to 11l. 5s. a square foot. Allowing for paths, &c., this would give about 40,000l. per acre, or for two hundred acres already chartered near the metropolis, the enormous sum of eight millions. That they would take much less, perhaps one-fourth for money in hand, cannot be doubted, but such is the calculation of estimated value.

A. SUPPEREN.

#### LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

SIR,—I find the leading article of THE BUILDER of the 11th of December ult., treating the designs and management of lunatic asylums, and that you therein advocate the adoption of a two-story building for the proposed Middlesex asylum, stating, "that the disadvantages of a third story are obvious, such as the additional fatigue occasioned by it, and the obstacle this affords to a proper supervision." Upon this subject I should be glad to find some one who would describe the disadvantages in point of supervision and fatigue of a three-story (or even of a four-story building), in comparison with one of two stories. At present there is nothing but mere assertion to grapple with, and I think that the attempt to make it practically appear would refute itself.

I have reason to believe that these objections are imaginary and erroneous in practice; and as your journal is a valuable vehicle to convey information on matters of building interest to the public, whence they may be discussed at something near the fact arrived at, I will venture to state the results of the inquiries I found it expedient to make upon the disputed point, of the merits of a three-story building for the purpose of a pauper lunatic asylum.